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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the fifty-second submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017) and paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on data available to agencies of the United Nations system[1] and from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from agencies of the United Nations system on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for May 2018.

[1] Input provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic, the Mine Action Service, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

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II. Major developments

Box 1
Key points: May 2018

1. During the reporting period, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic solidified its control over eastern Ghutah and gained control of Yarmouk camp and surrounding areas, following sustained military operations that resulted in deaths, injuries and damage to civilian infrastructure in those locations. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of people in besieged locations. Both eastern Ghutah and Yarmouk camp are now categorized as hard-to-reach areas for humanitarian organizations. Access to those areas remained unauthorized by the Government except for one visit made to eastern Ghutah by representatives of United Nations agencies in mid-May.

2. Some 35,000 people were displaced from northern Homs and southern Hama, and 9,650 others were displaced from Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, following local agreements providing for evacuations. The United Nations was not a party to those agreements, nor was it involved in the evacuations. In total, nearly 120,000 people are reported to have been displaced following local agreements since mid-March.

3. A large proportion of the population of eastern Ghutah, some 160,000 people, remained displaced across the Syrian Arab Republic throughout the reporting period, including an estimated 44,000 at sites for internally displaced persons in Rif Dimashq Governorate and some 40,000 who had been authorized to move out of those sites through a system of sponsorship, following security clearance. The Government reported that approximately 13,500 people had returned to eastern Ghutah by the end of May.

4. Reports of increased military operations in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic raised concerns about further escalation in the area and related humanitarian consequences. Humanitarian organizations continued their contingency planning and response preparedness efforts, including through cross-border humanitarian operations.

5. In the north-western part of the country, the humanitarian response to the needs of people displaced to the Tall Rif'at area of Aleppo Governorate as a result of military operations in Afrin district, and to Nubl, Zahra', Fafin and surrounding villages, continued. Restrictions on the movement of people displaced from Afrin remained a concern, although some returns to Afrin district were reported in late May. Access for Damascus-based United Nations agencies and implementing partners from within the country to Afrin district itself remained cut off. Cross-border non-governmental organizations had regular access to Afrin district.

6. In Idlib Governorate, fighting between government forces and non-State armed opposition groups, as well as among non-State armed opposition groups, continued to be reported. The continued arrival of newly displaced people under evacuation arrangements in northern rural Homs, southern rural Hama and Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham further stretched humanitarian response capacities and placed additional pressure on host communities in both Idlib and Aleppo Governorates.

7. United Nations humanitarian assistance reached millions of people in need, including more than 2.17 million who received food assistance through regular deliveries to government-controlled areas. Access to hard-to-reach and besieged areas remained challenging. Facilitation letters were provided for inter-agency convoys to

Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr. While those convoys proceeded on 30 May, United Nations personnel were not permitted to participate, on security grounds.

3. Since the adoption by the Security Council on 24 February 2018 of its resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council demanded a cessation of hostilities, military conflict has continued in many parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. Throughout May, air strikes, artillery shelling and sniper fire were reported in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah, Dayr al-Zawr, Homs, Hama, Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a and Qunaytirah as military operations continued between the Government and its allied forces, and non-State armed opposition groups. Sporadic clashes occurred between government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate.

4. The reporting period saw a reduction in the number of people in areas categorized as besieged as the Government regained control of Yarmouk camp, in southern Damascus Governorate, following sustained military operations that resulted in deaths, injuries and damage to civilian infrastructure. No United Nations access to Yarmouk camp was authorized by the Government during the reporting period, although the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was permitted to carry out a rapid needs assessment in neighbouring Yalda on 28 May. By the end of the reporting period, UNRWA had reported that Yarmouk camp itself, home to more than 160,000 people before the conflict, was largely empty and in ruins. According to the Agency's estimates, as few as 100 Palestine refugees remained inside the camp as of late May. The reporting period also saw a reduction in the number of people in areas categorized as hard to reach, as humanitarian access improved in a number of areas that had recently come under localized agreements.

5. Following military escalation in northern Homs and southern Hama Governorates, some 35,000 people were displaced after the conclusion of local agreements between representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and non-State armed opposition groups. An additional 9,650 people were evacuated from Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq. Those evacuees were transported to the north-western part of the country, where they were able to access humanitarian assistance delivered through cross-border operations. In addition, between 900 and 1,200 fighters of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and members of their families were evacuated to a desert area between the eastern part of Homs and western Dayr al-Zawr, and an estimated 400 family members of ISIL fighters were evacuated to north-western Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations was not a party to these agreements, nor was it involved in the evacuations.

6. A significant proportion of the population of eastern Ghutah remained displaced throughout the reporting period, including an estimated 44,000 people in sites for internally displaced persons in Rif Dimashq Governorate and a similar number who had been authorized to move out of those sites through a system of sponsorship, following security clearance. An additional 66,365 people from eastern Ghutah remained in various locations in the north-western part of the country, following several rounds of evacuations in March and April. The Syrian authorities reported that some 13,500 people had returned to eastern Ghutah by the end of the reporting period.

7. United Nations personnel visited Saqba and Kafr Batna, in eastern Ghutah, on 14 May and observed the resumption of some services and commercial activity. However, damage to civilian infrastructure was extensive, with a clear need for a significant scaling-up of humanitarian assistance and protection activities. This visit

marked the first time that United Nations personnel had been granted access to eastern Ghutah since 15 March, when an inter-agency convoy delivered assistance for 26,100 people. Since then, assistance has been provided only through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other local organizations. The United Nations continued to call for expanded regular access to allow for needs to be fully assessed and for assistance to be further scaled up in eastern Ghutah, including in Duma.

8. Reports of significant military mobilization in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic contributed to concerns about a further escalation in the area and related humanitarian consequences. Syrian forces were reported to have dropped flyers over various communities in Dar'a Governorate, calling on opposition fighters to enter into reconciliation agreements or face a military offensive. Humanitarian organizations continued their contingency planning and response preparedness efforts, drawing on cross-border assistance deliveries.

9. The humanitarian situation in Idlib Governorate remained of great concern during the reporting period, with air strikes, clashes between armed groups, overcrowding and severely stretched basic services contributing to the deepening of the suffering of both displaced people and host communities. Some 80,000 newly displaced people had arrived in Idlib between March and the end of the reporting period. Humanitarian organizations in the area reported that keeping pace with the growing needs was increasingly challenging, and cross-border assistance remained a critical part of efforts in that regard. Half of the 2.4 million people in Idlib are internally displaced, with many having had to flee more than once.

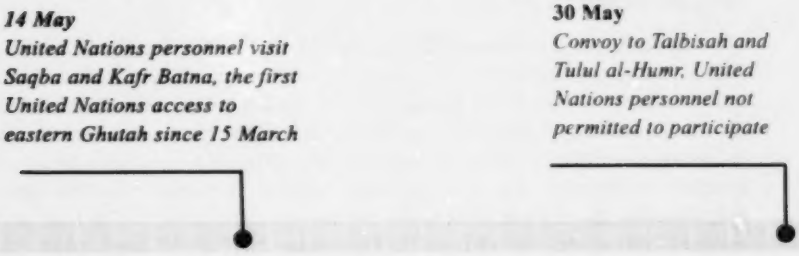
10. Turkish forces, along with Syrian non-State armed opposition groups affiliated with Operation Euphrates Shield, continued to carry out Operation Olive Branch in Afrin, in Aleppo Governorate. The United Nations and its partners continued to respond to the needs of people displaced from Afrin district to the Tall Rif'at area and to Nubl, Zahra', Fafin and surrounding villages. Efforts to register the displaced also continued in those locations. Restrictions on the movement of people displaced from Afrin remained a major concern, although several hundred vehicles were reportedly able to proceed to Afrin city through a crossing point in Ibin village between 21 and 26 May. Humanitarian access to Afrin district from within the Syrian Arab Republic has not yet received the necessary approvals from the Syrian authorities. Humanitarian organizations based in Turkey with access to Afrin district continued to provide assistance, including United Nations assistance. The United Nations and partners conducted a rapid needs assessment during the reporting period. Findings indicated that needs remained high, with most health-care facilities in rural areas closed, many service providers having fled the area and a large proportion of schools, markets and bakeries not yet functional, owing to the continued absence of staff, workers and tradespeople.

11. Diplomatic engagement by my Special Envoy for Syria to meaningfully relaunch the United Nations-facilitated Geneva process continued in May with representatives of the Astana guarantors, composed of Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation and Turkey, and the Small Group of the Global Coalition, composed of France, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. My Special Envoy reminded interlocutors of the need for robust and proactive international dialogue and consensus to create the minimum conditions necessary for a credible political process.

12. Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation and Turkey met in Astana on 14 and 15 May and agreed to hold joint consultations of their high-level representatives with my Special Envoy in order to create conditions to facilitate the beginning of the work of the constitutional committee in Geneva. Soon thereafter, my Special Envoy received an initial list of names for the constitutional committee from

the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, a second meeting of the Working Group on the release of detainees/abductees, the handover of bodies and the identification of missing persons was held, with the participation of the three Astana guarantors, the United Nations and experts from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Figure I
Key dates in May 2018


14 May
United Nations personnel visit Saqba and Kafr Batna, the first United Nations access to eastern Ghutah since 15 March
30 May
Convoy to Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr, United Nations personnel not permitted to participate

13. Military campaigns against ISIL continued during the reporting period. The United States-led coalition increased offensive activity against ISIL throughout May, including on the Iraq-Syrian Arab Republic border. Fighting between government forces and ISIL in the areas of Yarmouk camp and Hajar al-Aswad, in southern Damascus, continued until a ceasefire deal was reportedly negotiated, followed by the evacuation of hundreds of ISIL fighters and civilians to the Syrian desert in Homs and Dayr al-Zawr Governorates. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that it had reassumed its full authority over those areas, bringing under its control the entire capital and its surrounding areas. Government forces also continued their campaign against ISIL in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, where government forces seized additional areas. The Syrian Democratic Forces continued their assault against ISIL in Dayr al-Zawr and Hasakah Governorates, where they gained additional territory. Non-State armed opposition groups battled ISIL in the western countryside of Dar'a Governorate.

Protection

14. Air and ground-based strikes continued to kill and injure civilians and to damage and destroy civilian infrastructure. Explosive weapons continued to be fired into populated areas, killing and injuring civilians and destroying and damaging vital infrastructure. Communities were littered with explosive hazards that killed and injured civilians and impeded humanitarian access. The use of improvised explosive devices in some areas added to the complexity of the explosive hazard threat. The many civilian casualties and the scale of the destruction of civilian infrastructure remained a strong indication that violations of the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and in particular of the prohibition on the launching of indiscriminate attacks, continued.

15. During the conflict with ISIL, Raqqah city was littered by a complex array of explosive hazards, including unexploded ordnance, landmines and improvised explosive devices, that posed a direct risk to civilians and to humanitarian and construction workers. Explosive hazards remaining from conflict with ISIL continued

to be a major threat to civilians returning to Raqqah city as well as to humanitarian and construction workers, even though the number of victims diminished during the reporting period. United Nations partners saw an average of between 10 and 15 blast-related civilian injuries and deaths per week, down from 50 per week in late 2017. However, the number of child victims, especially boys, increased as a result of greater numbers of families returning and children playing outside in dangerous areas.

16. Fighting continued to have an impact on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, schools, markets and places of worship. On the basis of information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), civilian casualties occurred in various governorates, possibly in violation of international humanitarian law (see annex). OHCHR has documented alleged violations committed by parties to the conflict, including government forces and their allies, non-State armed opposition groups and their allies, and Security Council-designated terrorist groups.

17. In addition to violations documented by OHCHR, the Government provided the Office with information on alleged violations. The United Nations cannot independently verify those allegations. Three notes verbales, dated 2 May, were sent by the Syrian Arab Republic to OHCHR. In the first, the Syrian Arab Republic informed the Office of "civilian deaths and injured civilians, as a result of the terrorist attacks committed by the terrorist armed groups targeting the residential neighbourhoods of Damascus in the Syrian Arab Republic, using mortars and missiles mortars, during the period from 22 December 2017 to 22 April 2018. Those terrorist attacks with mortars amounted to 2,984 mortars, and resulted in 161 civilian deaths and 892 injured civilians". In the second note, it informed the Office of "shelling with mortars and missile attacks, perpetrated by terrorist armed groups, targeting the residential neighbourhoods of Almidan, Kfar Souseh, Nahr Eisheh, Azzahira, Alqadam and Daf Alshok in Damascus city in the Syrian Arab Republic, on the 25th, 27th and 28th of April 2018, which amounted to 13 mortars. Those terrorist attacks resulted in one civilian death and eight injured civilians, most of them children and women, as well as in physical damage to private and public property and infrastructures". In the third note, the Syrian authorities informed the Office of "shelling with mortars and missiles attacks, perpetrated by terrorist armed groups, targeting residential neighbourhoods of Nahr Eisheh, Sbeineh, Alqadam, Almidan, Azzahirah and Assayida Zeinab in Damascus city in the Syrian Arab Republic, on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of April 2018, which amounted to 22 mortars. Those terrorist attacks resulted in seven civilian deaths and 40 injured civilians, most of them children and women, as well as in physical damage to private and public property and infrastructures". On 15 May, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva sent another note verbale to OHCHR in which it informed the Office of "shelling with mortars and missiles attacks, and sniping cases perpetrated by terrorist armed groups, targeting residential neighbourhoods of Alqazaz, Daf Ashok, Commercial Bourj Damascus, Almaysat Square, Almidan and Azzahirah in Damascus city in the Syrian Arab Republic, from the 8th to the 11th of May 2018, which amounted to 10 mortars. Those terrorist attacks resulted in 5 civilian deaths and 26 injured civilians, most of them children and women, as well as in physical damage to private and public property and infrastructure". On 25 May, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva sent an additional note verbale to OHCHR in which it informed the Office of "shelling with mortars and missiles attacks perpetrated by terrorist armed groups, targeting residential neighbourhoods of Victoria Bridge, Almidan, Asekh Mheddin and Azzahira in Damascus city in the Syrian Arab Republic, on the 16th and 17th of May 2018, which amounted to 5 mortars. Those terrorist attacks resulted in 2 civilian deaths and 32

injured civilians, most of them children and women, as well as in physical damage to private and public property and infrastructures".

18. Notwithstanding the call upon the Syrian authorities by the Human Rights Council, in its resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights, OHCHR reporting remained limited, given that the Government had not granted it access to the country.

19. The United Nations and its health partners verified two attacks impacting health-care facilities and personnel during the reporting period. On the morning of 2 May, health sector partners reported air strikes on the Specialized Hospital in Kafr Zayta town, in northern rural Hama. The air strikes resulted in the death of one staff member and caused massive damage to the hospital building. On 12 May, in Idlib city, a large explosion occurred in front of the Governorate Hospital, killing 12 people and injuring at least 60 others, in addition to causing damage to the hospital's intensive care unit and its emergency and children's departments. The hospital was closed as a result. Health partners also reported an alleged missile and barrel bomb attack on a makeshift hospital in Rastan city, in northern rural Homs Governorate. On 12 May, a mobile medical clinic was reportedly hit by fragments of a rocket-propelled grenade as it was parked in a garage beside the offices of a local non-governmental organization, which caused material damage.

20. Education facilities also continued to be affected by the fighting, with an attack carried out on 28 May on al-Bashaer College in Nawa city, in rural Dar'a Governorate, in which armed men entered the school through its roof before opening fire on students and teaching staff, injuring one student. Staff reported that the reason for the attack had been a refusal to pay fees demanded by the unidentified armed group. An additional attack was alleged to have taken place in Dana city, in northern rural Idlib Governorate, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded near al-Sina'a School for Girls, resulting in a large fire. No casualties were reported in relation to the incident.

Humanitarian access

Box 2
Key points

1. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need, including from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the country by United Nations agencies based in Damascus to regularly accessible locations in government-controlled areas reached more than 2.17 million people with food assistance through 2,180 deliveries.

2. Only two inter-agency humanitarian convoys of lifesaving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in May, namely, to the hard-to-reach locations of Talbisah, in northern rural Homs, and Tulul al-Humr, in southern Hama. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered United Nations multisectoral assistance for 92,750 people in those two locations. The convoys also delivered food assistance for 12,000 in nearby Jabiriyah village. United Nations personnel were not permitted to participate in the two convoys, because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities.

3. Cross-border assistance, authorized under Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017), remained a vital part of the humanitarian response. In May, 440 trucks (19 consignments) delivered lifesaving assistance to more than 1 million people through cross-border deliveries. The United

Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

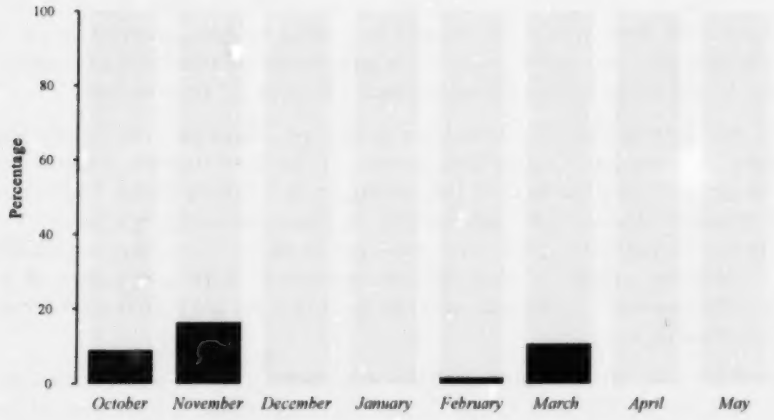
4. The United Nations estimates that, as at 30 May 2018, some 1.5 million people were living in hard-to-reach and besieged locations in the Syrian Arab Republic. That number included 8,100 people living in locations besieged by armed opposition groups (compared with 11,100 in April 2018), namely, Fu'ah and Kafraya, and 1,483,964 people living in hard-to-reach areas (compared with 2.04 million in April 2018). This update relates to the improvement of humanitarian access in a number of areas that recently came under localized agreements, as well as to recent changes in the lines of control in Yarmouk, following a military offensive by the Government and allied forces.

21. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for May and June, access was requested to 20 locations in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, with the objective of reaching 860,200 people. In May, two inter-agency convoys were authorized to deploy to the hard-to-reach locations of Talbisah, in Homs, and Tulul al-Humr, in Hama, providing multisectoral assistance to 92,750. Food assistance was also provided to 12,000 in nearby Jabiriyah village (see table 1). United Nations personnel were not permitted to participate, on security grounds.

Table 1
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, May 2018

Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Number of beneficiaries reached*	*Type of assistance*
30 May	Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr	92 750	92 750	Multisectoral
30 May	Jabiriyah	12 000	12 000	Food

Figure II
Percentage of people reached each month in besieged areas through United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, October 2017–May 2018



22. The United Nations estimates that, as at 30 May 2018, approximately 8,100 people were living in besieged locations in the country (compared with 11,100 in April 2018), namely, Fu'ah and Kafraya, and 1.48 million people were living in hard-to-reach areas (compared with 2.04 million in April 2018). This update relates to the improvement of humanitarian access in a number of areas that recently came under localized agreements, as well as to recent changes in the lines of control in Yarmouk, following a military offensive by government and allied forces. An area is considered by the United Nations to be besieged when it is surrounded by armed actors, with the sustained effect that civilians, including the sick and the wounded, cannot leave it on a regular basis and humanitarian assistance cannot regularly enter it. The two remaining besieged locations in the Syrian Arab Republic are besieged by non-State armed opposition groups.

Figure III
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, May 2018

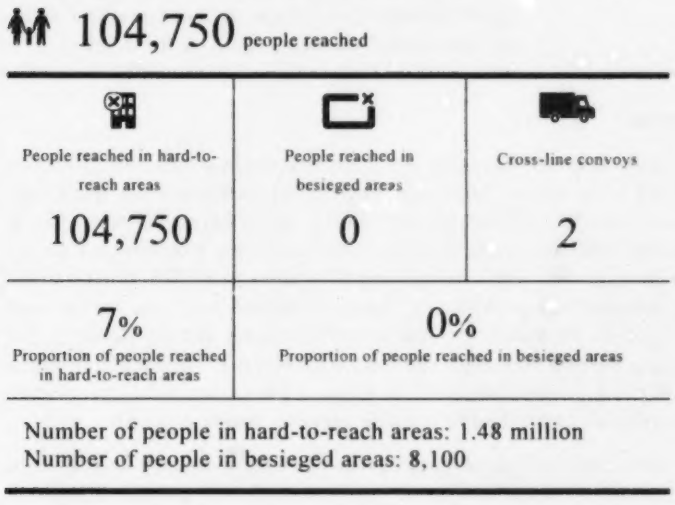


Table 2
Besieged locations, May 2018

Governorate	*Location*	*Population*	*Besieged by*
Idlib	Fu'ah	5 900	Non-State armed opposition groups
Idlib	Kafraya	2 200	Non-State armed opposition groups
Total		**8 100**	

23. Lifesaving and life-sustaining medical items sufficient for more than 100 treatments were rejected or removed from the inter-agency convoy to Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr in May, according to the World Health Organization. Details regarding the treatments and supplies removed are shown in table 3.

Table 3
Medical supplies removed from humanitarian convoys, May 2018

Location	*Number of treatments*	*Types of supplies*
Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr	100	Oxytocin injection 10 international units in 1 ml ampoule; ketamine hydrochloride USP, equivalent to ketamine 50 mg/ml vial; Triprolidine hydrochloride 1.25 mg + pseudoephedrine hydrochloride 30 mg + guaiphenesin 100 mg/5 ml syrup; dobutamine hydrochloride 280 mg, equivalent to dobutamine base 250 mg/20 ml vial; Gelofusine colloidal plasma volume substitute solution for infusion; 4 per cent w/v succinylated gelatin in saline; IV plastic container; Ecoflac plus in 500 ml bottle; electric operation table with advanced options; Phenobarbitone; reduced in quantity: syringe Luer 5 ml, disposable; Heparine Medis; adrenaline 1 mg/1 ml ampoule; sterile hypodermic syringe without needle for single use, 5 ml; salbutamol 0.2 per cent, solution for inhalation, by M&G/Syria.

Humanitarian response

24. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners reached millions of people in need through all available access routes, including: (a) humanitarian operations from within the Syrian Arab Republic, whereby humanitarian deliveries reach those in need without crossing conflict lines; (b) cross-line convoys, whereby assistance from within the country is delivered across conflict lines; and (c) cross-border deliveries, whereby assistance is provided to those in need from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey (see tables 1 and 2). In addition to the United Nations and its partners, the Government and non-governmental organizations continued to deliver lifesaving assistance to people in need. Local authorities in many areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups also continued to provide services where possible.

25. Individual agencies continued to submit requests for single-agency deliveries to locations across the country. Such deliveries are undertaken by United Nations agencies based in Damascus to regularly accessible areas. In May, all of the 2,180 official requests submitted by the World Food Programme to the Syrian authorities to obtain facilitation letters for the transport of food assistance to locations across the country were approved. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submitted 32 requests for facilitation letters for the movement of core relief items and livelihood kits, all of which were approved. More than 1,177,000 children and mothers were reached with primary health-care and immunization services during May. In addition, an estimated 721,000 children and pregnant and lactating women were provided with nutritional supplements and services. A total of 200,000 children benefited from essential learning materials and remedial education, and 215,000 children benefited from protection and psychosocial support services. Approximately 2.82 million people received food assistance and 1.83 million benefited from water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies.

Table 4
People reached by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities, May 2018

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	8 400
International Organization for Migration	39 000
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2 711 000
United Nations Children's Fund	3 500 000
United Nations Development Programme	422 000
United Nations Population Fund	270 000
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	291 000
World Food Programme	2 820 000
World Health Organization	698 000

26. Military escalation in eastern Ghutah ceased during the reporting period. As a result of the fighting in earlier months, some 160,000 were displaced, with approximately 44,000 staying at nearby sites for internally displaced persons in May and a similar number of people authorized to move out of those sites through a system of sponsorship, following security clearance. Moreover, according to the Syrian authorities, some 13,500 people had moved back to eastern Ghutah as of late May. Humanitarian access to assist civilians in need in eastern Ghutah remained challenging. The United Nations did not receive permission to conduct needs assessments or deliver humanitarian assistance inside the enclave. A high level mission of heads of agencies was allowed to visit Saqba and Kafr Batna, in eastern Ghutah, on 14 May; however, a full assessment of needs has yet to be authorized. Assistance has been provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other local partners. In addition, the United Nations continued to provide assistance to displaced people at displacement sites in Rif Dimashq and to evacuees in Idlib and northern Aleppo Governorates through implementing partners.

27. Following military escalation in northern Homs, the local agreement between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and non-State armed opposition groups was implemented in the beginning of May, with approximately 35,000 people evacuated to Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. An estimated 217,500 people remained in the area, and the United Nations was unable to access the area on a regular basis. On 30 May, however, the United Nations provided assistance through two inter-agency convoys to the hard-to-reach areas of Talbisah and surrounding villages in Homs, as well as to Tulul al-Humr, in Hama Governorate. The distributions were conducted by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, owing to the fact that United Nations personnel were not permitted to participate in the convoys, lacking the necessary approval from the Syrian authorities for security reasons.

28. An estimated 134,000 people remained displaced from Afrin district in the Tall Rif'at, Nubl, Zahra' and Fafin areas of Aleppo Governorate. People displaced from Afrin to Tall Rif'at and other areas have largely been accessible to humanitarian organizations operating from Aleppo. Humanitarian access to Afrin city from within the Syrian Arab Republic has not yet received the necessary approvals from the Syrian authorities. While some United Nations food and health-care assistance has been delivered across the border, assistance was arranged in cooperation with the Turkish authorities in these areas.

29. In Raqqah, an estimated 132,000 people have returned to Raqqah city since the withdrawal of ISIL. Most returnees have settled in areas with comparatively less infrastructure damage and explosive hazard contamination. Scaling up the humanitarian response and capacity has been challenging because of the high levels of contamination from mines and unexploded ordnance, which pose significant threats to the returnees and humanitarian workers. A United Nations needs assessment conducted on 1 April found extensive damage to infrastructure (80 per cent of buildings damaged or destroyed) and significant gaps in assistance and basic services. While the position of the United Nations remains that conditions are not safe for return, assistance is now being scaled up on the basis of the assessment findings, largely through non-governmental organization partners present in the city. A total of 11 non-governmental organizations are providing multisectoral assistance, of which 3 have opened offices in the city. No United Nations missions took place during the reporting period.

30. Cross-border deliveries continued from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (see figure IV and table 3). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its contents, its destination and the number of beneficiaries expected to be reached.

31. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations authorized under resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017) in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. During the reporting period, the Mechanism monitored the delivery of 19 consignments by seven United Nations agencies, consisting of 440 trucks, from the three border crossings: 10 from Bab al Hawa (305 trucks), 6 from Bab al-Salam (76 trucks) and 3 from Ramtha (59 trucks). There were no concerns or questions about the humanitarian nature of the consignments sent. The United Nations provided 48-hour notice to the Government regarding all shipments. Once in the country, United Nations partners ensured that shipments arrived at the designated warehouses. Independent third-party companies contracted by the United Nations ensured independent verification of the assistance arriving at the warehouses and monitored the distribution and/or service provision. The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Governments of Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

32. Since cross-border operations began in July 2014, following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations has conducted more than 818 cross-border consignments, with more than 20,679 trucks (13,987 through Bab al-Hawa and 2,131 through Bab al-Salam from Turkey; 4,539 through Ramtha from Jordan; and 22 through Ya'rubiyah from Iraq). Those operations complement and support the aid provided by international and Syrian non-governmental organizations that provide services to millions more from neighbouring countries.

33. During the reporting period, the United Nations and its implementing partners delivered food assistance to more than 1 million people from three cross-border entry points through Turkey and Jordan. Moreover, the United Nations conducted health and medical deliveries, providing nearly 370,000 treatments through the cross-border mechanism. In the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered winter kits, child protection assistance, nutrition, education, health and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies through a number of cross-border shipments. Almost 100,000 people were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and interventions. More than 37,800 children and adults received several emergency services, including mine risk education, which was delivered to internally displaced persons and host populations in schools and camps, while psychosocial support, case management services and parenting programmes were delivered in child-friendly spaces and community outreach programmes. More

than 398,500 children and women of child-bearing age received access to primary health-care services. Some 800,000 children under the age of 5 had access to immunization services. Curative and preventive nutritional interventions were delivered to 81,470 children under the age of 5 and to 35,131 pregnant and lactating women in north-western Syrian Arab Republic (Aleppo, Idlib and Hama). Approximately 69,662 children between the ages of 6 and 59 months and 11,519 pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition using mid-upper-arm circumference. Out of the screened children and women, 683 children were found to be severely acutely malnourished and were referred for appropriate treatment. A total of 21,513 pregnant and lactating women received education/counselling on optimal childcare and feeding practices.

34. In the southern parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, more than 440,000 people benefited from improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems. Of those people, more than 50,360 received emergency water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, including with regard to household water treatment, the provision of hygiene kits, and the rehabilitation and repair of sanitation facilities. UNICEF partners also continued to provide lifesaving nutritional services to beneficiaries in 13 communities in Dar'a and Qunaytirah Governorates. More than 4,000 children (2,034 boys and 1,974 girls) under the age of 5 were screened for acute malnutrition. Of those screened, 20 children (8 boys and 12 girls) were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. The detected cases were enrolled in the therapeutic and supplementary nutritional programme and received the required nutritional interventions from six health centres and one mobile clinic. Preventive nutritional services were also provided for 2,638 children under the age of 5, and 880 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplementation to prevent or treat micronutrient deficiencies. In addition, 2,5[illegible] pregnant and lactating women received counselling services with respect to infant and young child feeding practices. More than 1,000 children (544 boys and 515 girls) benefited from structured and sustained child protection and psychosocial support services, and 24 children (9 boys and 15 girls) were put under case management. A total of 45 individuals (6 men and 39 women) received support in the area of parental care and engagement through parenting programmes. In addition, more than 6,000 individuals benefited from initiatives to raise awareness about child protection issues.

35. UNHCR and its partners continued to enhance the response to the protection needs of internally displaced persons, returnees and other crisis-affected populations. By the end of May, 15,545 protection interventions had been conducted, reaching 384,413 individuals, including 317,109 benefiting from general protection activities, 4,483 benefiting from child protection activities and 62,821 reached through more than 2,388 awareness-raising campaigns across 12 governorates on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. As at 31 May 2018, the total number of functioning UNHCR-funded community centres and mobile units stood at 95 community centres, 17 satellite centres and 76 mobile units, supported by 2,178 outreach volunteers. This network provided protection-related services, including community mobilization, child protection, legal aid, the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, livelihood services, and services for persons with specific needs, to benefit some 2.6 million internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected people across 12 Syrian governorates. In May, 60,160 internally displaced persons in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Suwayda, Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Hasakah were direct beneficiaries of the UNHCR legal assistance programme, including counselling; awareness sessions on various legal topics, including civil documentation and women's rights; and lawyers' direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies. Moreover, the United Nations Population Fund reached more than 270,000 people, carrying out activities relating to reproductive health and

the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and youth-related violence. Also during the reporting period, UNRWA distributed a total of 64,322 food parcels to 125,598 Palestine refugees. In addition, the second round of cash distributions for 2018 started on 13 May 2018; by 31 May, a total of 241,864 individuals had received cash assistance through the regular cash distribution round. In addition, 2,822 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk and eastern Ghutah benefited from a one-time payment of $70 per family.

Figure IV
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners by cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, May 2018

(Thousands)

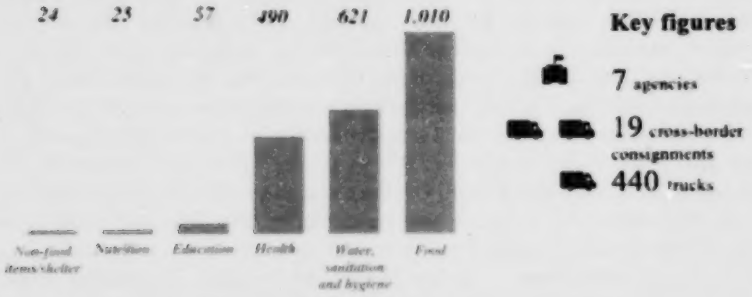


Table 5
Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries by sector and by district, May 2018

Governorate	*District*	*Education*	*Food*	*Health*	*Non-food items/shelter*	*Nutrition*	*Water, sanitation and hygiene*
Aleppo	Bab	–	10 800	–	3 000	–	15 000
Aleppo	I'zaz	–	142 220	89 300	–	–	27 495
Aleppo	Jarabulus	–	10 200	–	1 860	–	1 945
Aleppo	Jabal Sim'an	9 070	246 100	–	224	–	–
Dar'a	Sanamayn	340	10 010	–	–	–	38 000
Dar'a	Dar'a	15 432	24 285	150 186	1 800	25 000	254 145
Dar'a	Izra'	17 190	8 230	1 596	1 080	–	120 470
Hama	Muhradah	–	2 700	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Ma'arrah	–	117 115	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Ariha	–	47 500	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Harim	–	316 700	248 700	14 800	–	86 755
Idlib	Idlib	10 120	52 100	–	–	–	3 500
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	–	15 600	–	834	–	–
Qunaytirah	Fiq	–	292	–	–	–	6 000
Qunaytirah	Qunaytirah	4 841	6 155	–	–	–	67 400

36. The Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic, which outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

Visas and registrations

37. A total of 47 new United Nations visa requests were submitted to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in May. Of these, 15 were approved and 32 remained pending. Of the 114 new visa applications submitted in March and April 2018, 95 were approved in April and 9 in May, while 10 remained pending. A total of 85 United Nations visa renewal requests were submitted in May, of which 61 were approved, 1 was rejected and 23 remained pending. An additional 26 requests for visa renewals submitted in April were approved in May. For some United Nations entities in the Syrian Arab Republic, a significant number of staff are not yet in place or cannot be replaced owing to the non-issuance of visas for months, formal requests notwithstanding.

38. A total of 23 international non-governmental organizations are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

39. Agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent clashes among parties to the conflict, air strikes, the regular exchange of indirect artillery fire and asymmetrical attacks. As a result of activities relating to the armed conflict, significant areas of operation became highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines, which pose an elevated risk to the implementation of United Nations activities in those areas.

40. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including: 22 staff members of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, 18 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national non-governmental organizations are also reported to have been killed.

41. A total of 25 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (1 staff member of the United Nations Development Programme and 24 UNRWA staff members) are being detained or are missing.

III. Observations

42. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations and its partners are running the world's largest humanitarian operation. It continues to save lives every day. In 2017, multisectoral aid operations reached an average of at least 7.8 million people in need each month. That said, I am deeply concerned by the negative trajectory of humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic this year. As I have stated before, 2018 has seen what can be described only as a collapse in the ability of the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to reach people across conflict lines from within the Syrian Arab Republic. The scale of needs remains immense, with more than 13 million Syrians in need, of whom nearly 1.5 million are located in hard-to-reach and besieged areas across the country. These people — in places such as northern rural Homs, Duma, Fu'ah, Kafraya and southern Damascus — are some of the most desperate in the country. Just eight inter-agency convoys have reached some of these areas so far this year, providing humanitarian assistance to only 273,000 people. That is a mere fraction of the number of people whom the United Nations and its partners intended to reach under the bimonthly humanitarian convoy plans. Facilitating rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance for civilians in need is a legal obligation of all parties to the conflict. It is an important and irrefutable tenet of international

humanitarian law, which the Security Council, in its resolution 2165 (2014) and subsequent resolutions, seeks to implement. I again ask for the support of all Member States to ensure that humanitarian assistance can be provided in a rapid, safe, unimpeded and sustained manner to those who are in the greatest need.

43. Humanitarian needs remain staggering. Renewed international engagement in support of principled humanitarian action in the Syrian Arab Republic is critical. To translate the determination expressed at successive conferences in Kuwait, London and Brussels, we urgently need to see all pledges to the United Nations-coordinated appeals for the Syrian Arab Republic and the region turned into contributions, including through the pooled funds that provide direct support to front-line responders. The United Nations and its partners remain committed to delivering prioritized, needs-based, lifesaving assistance and protection across the Syrian Arab Republic.

44. Although the number of people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas has been reduced, significant protection concerns remain. Besieged areas have come under government control after prolonged periods of heavy fighting and restricted humanitarian assistance following local agreements providing for the relocation of thousands of people, under difficult conditions. The United Nations is not a party to these agreements, nor is it involved in evacuations. I once again urge all parties to refrain from any action that might force civilians to flee their habitual residence.

45. The creation of a calm, safe and neutral environment across the Syrian Arab Republic that will enable all Syrians to express confidence in a political process is paramount. In that context, de-escalation must remain a priority. I continue to urge parties to act with restraint, in accordance with international law, and to avoid escalatory acts that could worsen the suffering of the Syrian people. I continue to express my alarm at provocative actions that risk a new conflagration in the region, and call upon regional actors to exercise maximum restraint. Moreover, all parties to armed conflict must respect civilians and civilian objects, including civilian infrastructure, and take constant care to spare them throughout their military operations.

46. I reiterate that those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable. Such a step is central to achieving sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. I also reiterate my call for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court, and call upon all parties to the conflict, all States, civil society and the United Nations system as a whole to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. I also strongly encourage the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights. Similarly, in line with Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 and subsequent resolutions, I call on the Syrian Government to allow the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic access to the Syrian Arab Republic in order to carry out its work.

47. There is no military solution: the United Nations-facilitated political process remains the only viable avenue for a sustainable end to conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. My Special Envoy will continue his efforts to meaningfully relaunch the United Nations-facilitated political process and to establish a constitutional committee, with the final agreement on its mandate, terms of reference, powers and rules of procedure and the selection criteria for its composition reached under United

Nations auspices in Geneva, and engage all relevant parties to that end, as he exercises his prerogative within the framework of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). The efforts of the international community, including members of the Security Council, to end the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic are critical.

Annex

Incidents affecting civilians, recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, May 2018*

Damascus and Rif Dimashq Governorates

- On 9 May, one civilian man and his wife were reportedly killed and one civilian was injured when strikes hit an area in western Rif Dimashq Governorate. The victims were reportedly from the Shaykh Miskin area of Dar'a Governorate, driving their vehicle close to where the strike hit as they were driving from Izra' city, in Dar'a, to Damascus city.
- On 9 May, unidentified strikes hit various residential areas in Damascus city and allegedly resulted in civilian casualties, in addition to damage to infrastructure. Between 1100 and 1130, explosions hit "Damascus tower 18" and the Maysat roundabout in Damascus city, reportedly killing 3 civilians and injuring at least 23 others. The strikes reportedly resulted in significant damage to infrastructure and several vehicles in the area.
- On 16 May at around 1100, ground-based strikes reportedly hit a residential area near the Awqaf building, in the vicinity of the Victoria Bridge in Damascus city, reportedly killing 11 civilians and injuring at least 11 others.
- On 18 May, strikes hit the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held area of Hajar al-Aswad in southern Damascus and reportedly killed three civilian women.
- On 18 May, strikes hit the ISIL-held Yarmouk refugee camp area in southern Damascus and reportedly killed two civilian women and a 6-year-old boy.

Dar'a Governorate

- On 3 May, strikes hit the opposition-held city of Harak, in eastern Dar'a, reportedly killing one civilian and injuring at least two others.
- On 9 May at around 2030, strikes hit the neighbourhood of Arba'in in the opposition-held Dar'a al-Balad, in Dar'a city, reportedly killing two civilian women and a 2-year-old child and injuring at least six other civilians, including one woman and four children.
- On 17 May, one male journalist was reportedly killed when strikes hit a residential area in the opposition-held town of Sayda, in eastern Dar'a.
- On 22 May, one male civilian was reportedly killed as a result of small arms fire exchanged between different armed opposition groups in Jallayn town, in western Dar'a.

* In line with Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground and the incidents that occurred during the month that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been able to corroborate relates to compliance with Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Ceasefire of the International Syria Support Group. The reporting is not a comprehensive listing of all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law that took place in the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period.

Aleppo Governorate

- On 4 May, a piece of unexploded ordnance detonated in one of the streets in the opposition-held town of Darat Izzah, in western Aleppo, reportedly killing two civilians.
- On 4 May, mortar rounds hit a residential area in the Shahba' neighbourhood of government-held Aleppo city and reportedly injured at least three civilians.
- On 5 May, a piece of unexploded ordnance detonated in one of the streets in the opposition-held town of Hayyan, in northern Aleppo Governorate, reportedly killing two children.
- On 4 May at around 2200, a prominent armed opposition fighter from the Hamza Division in Bab city, in north-eastern Aleppo, raided the private al-Hikmah Hospital along with a number of other fighters and reportedly physically assaulted two male nurses and one female nurse over a delay in providing medical assistance to one of the assailant's relatives. Shots were fired in the air, and the hospital had to close down and temporarily transfer all staff and operations to the nearby al-Salam Hospital in the city. On 5 May at around 0500, the hospital staff were reportedly attacked again while at the al-Salam Hospital by the same perpetrators, and one male nurse was allegedly beaten. The attacks provoked anger in the community, and civilians approached the local "police" headquarters, demanding that action be taken against the perpetrators. The Turkish army reportedly intervened to try to control the situation. The perpetrators were reportedly turned in to the "police" by the Hamza Division on 5 May, but released a few days later.
- On 6 May, armed clashes using both light and heavy weapons reportedly erupted between armed opposition fighters from the Ahrar al-Sharqiya and Ahrar al-Sham armed opposition groups in Bab city. The eruption of violence came a few hours after the alleged murder of 10 male civilian internally displaced persons from Dayr al-Zawr Governorate who had recently arrived in Bab city along with other internally displaced persons from the Qalamun area of Rif Dimashq Governorate. The 10 murdered civilians had reportedly been shot in the head at a checkpoint, in the vicinity of the Centre roundabout, set up by armed members of the Waki family, which has links to armed opposition groups. Reports received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) confirmed that several checkpoints had been erected by Ahrar al-Sharqiya and Ahrar al-Sham, which exchanged fire and imposed movement restrictions on civilians. The armed clashes reportedly resulted in the killing of three civilians, including one woman, and the injury of 19 other civilians, including women and children.
- On 6 May, mortar rounds hit residential areas in the Nile Street, Mashru' 3000 and Hamdaniyah neighbourhoods of government-held Aleppo city, reportedly killing one civilian woman and injuring seven other civilians.
- On 11 May, an improvised explosive device detonated inside a house in the Ma'adi neighbourhood of government-held Aleppo city, reportedly killing three civilians and injuring at least three others.
- On 21 May, one civilian — an internally displaced person from Jindayris town, in Afrin district in north-western Aleppo — was reportedly killed when armed fighters from the People's Protection Units manning one of the checkpoints in Beneh village, in Shirawa district in northern Aleppo, fired in the air in an attempt to prevent dozens of civilians gathered at the checkpoint from returning to Afrin district.

- On 24 May at around 1900, an improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated in the middle of a marketplace on Ra'i Street in opposition-held Bab city and reportedly injured 12 civilians, including 4 children.
- On 30 May, armed clashes erupted between two armed opposition groups in Bab city and reportedly injured three civilians.
- On 31 May, an improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated in a busy shopping area in Jarabulus city, in eastern rural Aleppo Governorate, reportedly killing at least four civilians, including two children, and injuring a number of other civilians.

Idlib and Hama Governorates

- On 2 May at around 1500, strikes hit a residential area in the opposition-held village of Mishmishan, in western rural Idlib. The strike destroyed a one-storey home, reportedly killing six civilians (three women and three children) from the same family.
- On 2 May at around 1000, strikes hit the Specialized Hospital in the opposition-held town of Kafr Zayta, in northern Hama, reportedly killing one civilian female staff member and injuring five other civilian staff. The hospital reportedly sustained significant damage and was closed down.
- On 3 May, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the vicinity of the International Rescue Committee building on the road between the opposition-held cities of Dana and Sarmada, in northern Idlib, reportedly killing 4 civilians, including 1 woman and 1 Committee staff member, and injuring 10 other civilians. The explosion caused significant damage to the building.
- On 4 May at around 2200, strikes hit a residential area in opposition-held Naqir village, in southern Idlib, reportedly killing 4 civilians, including 2 women and 1 child, and injuring 12 other civilians. The strikes reportedly caused significant damage to several houses in the area.
- On 6 May at around 1530, strikes hit the Qal'ah residential neighbourhood in opposition-held Jisr al-Shughur city, in western Idlib, reportedly killing four civilians, including one woman, and injuring five other civilians. The strikes caused significant damage to several buildings in the neighbourhood.
- On 8 May at around 1300, strikes hit a residential area in opposition-held Naqir village, in southern Idlib, reportedly killing three children and injuring three other civilians, including one woman and one child, all from the same family.
- On 9 May at around 2000, strikes hit a residential area in opposition-held Ma'arr Zaytah village, in southern Idlib, reportedly killing nine civilians from one family, including two women and six children.
- On 12 May at around 2030, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the vicinity of the Justice Palace in the opposition-held city of Idlib, reportedly killing 14 men and injuring 28 others. OHCHR received the names of only seven of the victims. The attack was allegedly targeting a prison operated by the Levant Liberation Organization inside the Justice Palace building. Preliminary information indicated that many of those killed were ISIL fighters who had been held by the Levant Liberation Organization, with other unconfirmed reports indicating that non-conflict-related prisoners held in the prison were also killed. The attack reportedly resulted in significant damage to the building, neighbouring houses and a nearby health-care facility known as the Governorate Hospital.

- On 15 May at around 1000, a strike hit a residential area in the opposition-held city of Ariha, in southern Idlib, reportedly killing two female children.
- On 16 May at around 0900, an unidentified explosion hit two cars driving along an agricultural road near opposition-held Mansura village, in north-western Hama, reportedly killing six civilians, including one child and four women.
- On 22 May at around 1000, unidentified armed men on motorbikes reportedly opened fire on a bus that was transporting civilians from government-held Aqrab village, in south-western Hama, to the adjacent government-held village of Kafr Qadah, reportedly killing three civilian passengers and injuring seven others. The bus came under attack while they were allegedly travelling to a "settlement centre" located in Kafr Qadah, approximately 8 km east of Aqrab, in order to "settle" their situation as required under a local agreement reached between armed opposition groups, on the one hand, and the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation, on the other. Aqrab village had been taken over by the government forces and their allies on 2 May, after the agreement.
- On 26 May at around 1200, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in a residential area known as Street 30, in the opposition-held city of Idlib, reportedly killing four civilians, including two children, and injuring scores of others. The explosion caused significant damage to several buildings in the area.
- On 30 May at around 0030, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in a street in the opposition-held city of Dana, in northern Idlib Governorate, with no casualties reported. Shortly thereafter, as civil defence first responders were extinguishing a fire, another improvised explosive device detonated at the location, reportedly injuring four civilians, including three civil defence staff members.
- On 31 May at around 1230, an unidentified explosion hit and destroyed a three-storey building in the Maydan neighbourhood of the opposition-held city of Ariha, in southern Idlib Governorate, reportedly killing three children from the same family and injuring two other children and two civilian women.

Hasakah Governorate

- On 1 May at dawn, air strikes hit several homes in ISIL-held Fadil village, in the vicinity of the Tall al-Jabir area of southern Hasakah Governorate, reportedly killing at least 21 civilians, including 6 women and 13 children from two families.
- On 11 May, strikes hit a residential area in the ISIL-held Hammadi village, in the Abu Hamda area of southern Hasakah, and reportedly killed eight civilians (five women and three children) from one family.

Raqqah Governorate

- On 12 May between 1000 and 1100, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the vicinity of the Sa'a roundabout in the centre of the Syrian Democratic Forces-held city of Raqqah, reportedly killing two civilians and injuring at least three others.

Dayr al-Zawr Governorate

- On 21 May, two children, 16 and 12 years old, were killed as a result of the detonation of a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street in the Asharah area of eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 23 May, two children were killed and two other civilians injured as a result of the detonation of a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street in the Syrian Democratic Forces-held city of Kharayij, in the Mayadin region of eastern Dayr al-Zawr.
- On 31 May at around 0500, strikes hit a residential area in the town of Baghuz, in the rural Albu Kamal region of eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, killing nine civilians, including two children, and injuring at least two other civilians, including a woman.